
TIPTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

A. S. UNDERHILL, M.D., D.P.H.

FOR THE YEAR 1895.

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ANNUAL REPORT

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Chairman and Members of the Tipton District Council.

Great Bridge, January, 1896.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to present to you my twenty-second annual report on the health of your district, and to call your attention to some of the statistics and to a summary of the work done during the past year. There has been great difficulty in estimating some of the work in the Sanitary Inspector's department, owing to the sudden death of our late inspector, Mr. Aveling. He had recorded much of his work in a private memorandum book, and this cannot be found; however, I know that very considerably more work has been done in this department than in previous years; when in health, Mr. Aveling was a conscientious worker, and gave satisfaction. Our present Inspector, Mr. Clifton, has only been in office for three months, and has done all that has been possible to finish off the accumulation of work in the interim between his predecessor's death and his appointment, and also to carry on the usual systematic work of the department.

The year has been marked by a continuation of the epidemic of Measles, noted in my last annual report, in which I say "I am carefully watching its course and the effects of the Christmas holidays on its progress, in order to suggest, where feasible, the closing of the schools." This was found to be necessary, as the disease spread from Ocker Hill, down the Gospel Oak road to Princes End, Bloomfield, Tipton and Dudley Port, ending with Great Bridge. and so in about four months becoming by degrees generally epidemic.

There have been fewer cases of complaints received from tenants about the removal of night-soil and ashes, which is a satisfactory matter. You have had several times under your consideration the best methods for working the Night-soil and Ashes department, and I think that the method now adopted is working more satisfactorily; I am pleased that you did not adopt the suggestion made for contracting with a non-official of your Council to carry on this work; the general experience of Sanitary Boards is that the contract method is unsatisfactory, and should be only applied to limited areas, where from geographical peculiarities or other unusual causes, there is a difficulty in the Board's Scavengers reaching the places required. You have also considered carefully the adoption of the "Notification of Infectious Diseases Act," and have decided not to adopt it. I can only reiterate my observation in last year's report and express my regret that so useful an Act has not been adopted. You have also been considering the reconstruction of our Bye-laws which are obsolete, and I am pleased to find that it is merely a matter of time for our Bye-laws to be satisfactorily amended.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

During the year I have made a very great number of inspections, and have found that the gross requirements of the Acts are fairly well carried out, but it will take much time to obtain anything like perfection in details. We have no large milliner's or dressmaker's shops; most of this work is done in the better class of artisan's house, as a rule, one girl with two or very occasionally three apprentices, make up the working staff. The sitting room, or living room is usually the work room; in one case I found the bed room so used. Ventilation is usually good, with a large open fire place and the door. In most of the Factories efficient ventilation is provided, but the workmen stop all ventilation where possible. I have had twice to ask Mr. Sedgwick, H. M. Inspector of Factories and Workshops, to examine premises, but there has not been any case of sufficient importance to refer to you.

CANAL BOAT REGULATIONS.

Owing to the death of Mr. Aveling, our late Sanitary Inspector, we have no exact record of the number of inspections made. He had not entered them in his register and it has been found impossible to obtain his daily diary; as no adverse report was made by him to the Sanitary Committee, we infer that the regulations were carried out. Since his death the inspections have been regularly made.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

We have only had one case in which we found it necessary to obtain a summons to enforce the carrying out of our recommendations, and we obtained an order to have the work required at once proceeded with.

LECTURES IN FIRST AID, PRACTICAL NURSING AND HYGIENE.

It was suggested by me in my annual reports for the last two years that systematic lectures should be given under the auspices of the Technical Education Committee, in "First Aid" and in "Practical Nursing and Hygiene," and pointing out the general utility of such courses of instruction, but on application being made to the committee, the matter was indefinitely postponed. There is no doubt that good home sanitary work could, and would be done by parents, if they only knew how to do it, and in our collieries and large works much pain could be saved in case of accident, and possibly lives would be spared, if an intelligent use was made of the appliances always ready at hand in such places. A few day ago, in one of our Foundries, a boy's life was saved, in a case where the right arm was caught by the leather band of a revolving wheel and torn away from his body; one of the workmen knew how to stop the bleeding, and applied his knowledge at once. He would have bled to death long before any surgeon could have reached him. It is the practice of very many of our County Councils to make special grants where such instruction is given by the St. John's Ambulance Association.

The following is an extract from the St. John's annual report as to what was done by our own County Council in Stafford.

Staffordshire,—"A grant of £60 was made to the Potteries Centre of the Association for the Session, 1894-5, on condition that twenty-two classes were conducted in the mining and rural districts of North Staffordshire. A grant of £21 was made to assist in the conduct of five similar classes in connexion with the mining instruction South Staffordshire. The committee are also prepared to receive applications from local committees in rural districts, and make grants varying from £3 to £5 per class, according to the number of pupils attending.

Org. Sec.—T. Turner, County Offices, Stafford.

HOSPITAL.

During the year the Hospital for Infectious diseases has not been made so much use of as I had hoped that it would have been, and this, I think, has arisen from two principal causes.

1.—From the difficulty in getting patients to consent to go

in, because the Hospital is looked upon as a Small-pox Hospital.

2.—From the fear that they would be charged more than they could afford to pay for their maintenance, &c., when in the Hospital.

These are both groundless fears, the wards are always well disinfected after a case of small-pox has been discharged, and no one has ever been forced to pay more than they could reasonably afford. I mentioned in my last year's report that my own opinion was, that as patients are admitted there primarily for the public benefit, to safe-guard the public from infectious disease, therefore, the public ought to pay for their maintenance. Notification and hospital isolation should always be provided together, the one as a natural sequence to the other. As a precautionary measure for preventing the spread of infectious disease, Hospital isolation should be applied to the first few cases, and this can only be done by prompt action after early notification. Afterwards when an epidemic is in full swing, the usefulness of an infectious hospital as a preventive is minimised, and is but a convenience to individual families. If an intelligent use of the hospital is made, a great economy can be effected, because by isolating the first few cases, the spread of the disease can be stayed, and there would not be the need of the large and expensive buildings that we see in some places.

There is every reason to think that if the first cases of Small-pox that we had in January, had not been at once isolated, we should have had an epidemic which would have cost us as much as it has cost some of the neighbouring towns. The question of notification has often been well discussed at the Council and committee meetings, as has also the free admission of patients into the Hospital, and you have decided that notification is unnecessary, and that a small charge ought to be made for the maintenance of patients in the Hospital where there would be no hardship in making such a charge, so we must do the best that we can, and still trust to the kindness of the medical practitioners of the district to gratuitously notify to me cases for which a statutory charge can be made.

During the year, 11 cases have been admitted ; of which number 4 have died. In January, 2 cases of Small-pox were admitted from the same house ; one case was fatal, a young woman, 21 years of age, who had been *vaccinated in one place* in infancy and had not been re-vaccinated.

7 cases of Typhoid Fever were admitted, of which number 3 have died. Two of the deaths were a husband and wife, removed from Hackett Street; the cases were of a very severe type. One of their children only recovered after a severe struggle. The third death, was a man from lodgings in the Old Coppice, who was admitted when very seriously ill, for the sake of the better care and food that he could receive there, but he never rallied.

2 cases of Scarlatina were admitted, of which one was a boy who was found roaming about the streets in the peeling stage, disseminating the disease wherever he went, in his case we had to obtain the aid of the police to force him to become a patient. He and his friends were so absolutely ignorant and careless that home isolation would have done no good, and we had to threaten him to keep him within bounds when he was under the hospital care.

I cannot express too decidedly my opinion as to the great benefits that we have derived from the hospital. Any medical man at the very shortest notice to me, as Superintendent, can send in a case of infectious disease, and take charge of the case himself; we always have two beds ready for emergencies, and there are every facilities for absolute isolation. During the year we have had great help with the nursing from Sister Lucy Cory, who has shewn great interest in the work there. At times the nursing has been very heavy, as the cases have been of so bad a character, but we have managed without having any extra paid nursing.

AMBULANCE CAR.

Since my last report satisfactory arrangements have been made with the Car Proprietor, who keeps a car solely for the use of the hospital, and he assures me that he always disinfects the car thoroughly after use, and allows of its use for no purpose whatever, except that of conveying patients to the hospital.

DISINFECTING APPARATUS.

This was under discussion at several of the meetings at the early part of the year, and I was instructed to obtain estimates of the cost of the most efficient apparatus for disinfecting clothes. I found, however, that there was a great difference of opinion as to the best apparatus for the purpose, and that all required more or less of skilled labour to work effectually, and the probably minimum cost would be £100 for the plant. I thought

that probably under Dr. Reid's scheme some arrangements would be made by amalgamation with other sanitary authorities for such purposes, so the final decision was left in abeyance. I will, however, refer to this again during the ensuing year, feeling sure that if it can be managed at a reasonable cost, it will be a most useful adjunct to our means for preventing the spread of infectious diseases.

WATER SUPPLY.

During the year I have analysed ¹³N samples of well water and have found them all to be more or less sewage contaminated, and therefore unfit for use as drinking water, and in each case the landlord has been called upon to have the South Staffordshire Water Works supply laid on, or to make such provision as would ensure a pure water supply for the property. It is practically impossible for a well to be kept pure in this district, the ground has been so broken up by mining operations, and there are in many places subterranean cracks extending for some distance. Our nightsoil lies for months in cesspits, many of which are dilapidated and allow of leakage of the more fluid contents, with consequent fouling of the ground, and of percolation into any well in the vicinity of the middens. I am therefore, constantly urging that it is cheaper to lay on the S. S. W. W. than to expend money upon mending wells, which, in a short, time will become as much fouled as ever, and I am pleased to report that during the year 138 houses have had the supply laid on, making a total of 5646 houses thus supplied, out of the reported number of inhabited houses 5938 (last census). During the year 1894, 113 houses were thus supplied, it will evidently not be very long before every house in the district will be supplied with this exceptionally good and pure water.

MEAT AND MARKET INSPECTION.

In consequence of complaints having been made that meat was habitually introduced on to the Great Bridge market, that was unfit for food, I made about 15 personal inspections, separate from the Sanitary Inspector, but in no stall did I see any meat that was diseased or decomposed. Much of it was very poor, some of the imported meat was discoloured on the outside from the heat, but was all right when cut into. There was no case that I considered as such that would have been at all harmful when eaten; although the nutritive value of much of it was comparatively small.

LODGING HOUSES.

We have no registered Lodging houses. Working men marry early and get homes of their own, some few lodge with friends, but there are no houses with a sufficient number of lodgers to form a register.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 24 Slaughter Houses on our register, of these, 3 have not been used during the last 12 months, and of those now in use, 16 have the water supply laid on to the premises. All are reported upon as being properly paved, drained and ventilated.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 12 small Bakehouses on the register; much, however, of the bread sold comes to us from outside our district. In one case only have I had to call the attention of H. M. Inspector of Factories to unsanitary conditions.

MILKSHOPS.

There are 43 small Milk shops or Dairies from which Milk is sold, the sanitary condition of some of these leave much to be desired, all are, however, kept clean. Many of the dairy keepers are much averse to efficient ventilation, and I must own to have seen some very healthy looking cows in very foul smelling sheds.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

During the year I have inspected and reported to you upon the Sanitary condition of 116 houses and of 18 separate properties, and have analysed 13 cases of suspected drinking water. In the older properties, dirt, dampness, and soil sodden with drainage have been the principal troubles. I have been trying to improve the condition of the Privies by better ventilation and by better constructed ash pits, much of the dirt in this district is due to the careless and slovenly habits of the tenants. If they shewed more care for their houses, and kept them cleaner, the Landlords and Property owners would be saved very great expense.

SMALL POX.

In January last, a man who lived in Park Lane and worked in a neighbouring town where there many cases of small-pox, brought small-pox home in his clothes; his young wife, (20 years of age) *who had only been vaccinated in one very small place during infancy* became infected, had the disease in what

is known as the semi-confluent form, and died. Her husband went into lodgings, sickened, and was at once removed to the Hospital, he had been vaccinated fairly well in infancy, so had the disease lightly. The houses were well disinfected where the patients were removed from, the windows were kept open for a week or two, and the place whitewashed, &c., before new tenants were allowed in them. Prompt isolation in this case evidently saved us from an epidemic, as no disease spreads more rapidly than small-pox in districts that are not well protected by vaccination, or where prompt and rigorous measures are not taken to prevent it spreading. As to our protection, it is unfortunately the custom here to vaccinate in one place only, this custom is one that is *legally right but morally wrong*, the protection thus afforded being insufficient, and only an evasion of the spirit of the Vaccination Act. Statistics fully confirm the opinion long since given that in adults the severity of a case of Small-pox varies directly in proportion to the number and character of the resulting cicatrices. Full protection may be guaranteed with 4 well marked vesicles, for 12 years, after which time it is better to be re-vaccinated.

The latest available statistics of the Parish are those respecting the vaccination of children in the year 1894.—

Number of Births ...	...	...	1113
Successfully Vaccinated ..	...	...	917
Insusceptible ...	...	...	3
Died Un-vaccinated ...	...	...	127
Postponed ...	...	...	15
Removed ...	...	...	37
Not Vaccinated ...	...	...	14

STATISTICS.

During the past year we have been practically at a standstill as far as regards the actual number of inhabitants. In compiling my statistics, I have therefore taken (as last year,) the census table for 1891 as the basis of my calculations. There has been very little change in the last thirty years.

During the year 38 new houses have been erected, but many have been closed by Landlords as too old to repay for structural alterations, 2 have been closed as insanitary, by order of the Council. The Census of 1891 shewed that the number of inhabited houses was 5938; the rate book shews that practically all were inhabited during the year.

CENSUS TABLE.

In 1871 the Census was	29,428
„ 1881 „ „	30,013
„ 1891 „ „	29,316

Table shewing a comparison between the number of Births, the number of Deaths under 1 year of age, and the Deaths at all ages during the past 10 years :—

	Births.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths at all ages.
1885 ..	1192	201	554
1886 ..	1053	186	542
1887 ..	1140	152	462
1888 ..	1021	156	520
1889 ..	1090	193	603
1890 ..	1212	196	561
1891 ..	1134	233	673
1892 ..	1153	189	544
1893 ..	1141	209	652
1894 ..	1095	177	486
1895	1127	196	566
Average for previous 10 years.	1128.1	189.2	559.7

Of the Deaths 305 were Males, 261 Females	..	566
„ Births 560 „ 567 „	..	1127
General Death Rate	..	19.30 per 1000.*
„ (1895) for 33 large English towns	20.7	„
Deaths under 1 year of age	..	196
Number of Births	..	1127
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age, as compared with number of Births	..	173.9 per 1000
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age, in 33 large English towns	..	182 per 1000
Number of Deaths from 7 principal Zymotic diseases		97
Zymotic Death Rate	..	3.34 per 1000
		(including Croup and Diphtheria.)
„ „ 1895, 33 large English towns	2.8	„

* Exceeding by 2.6 per 1000 the exceptionally low death rate of 1894 and slightly below the mean rate for the preceding ten years.

It will thus be seen that the number of births for the past year has been slightly in excess of the average for the past 10 years, 1127 against an average of 1123.1. The deaths under

1 year are also slightly in excess, 196 against an average of 189.2, this may be accounted for by the large number of cases fatal from Diarrhoea, 22 being registered under 1 year of age as fatal from this cause. This excess compares with the average for the 33 large English towns, 164 per 1000, against 184 per 1000 in 1895. It is important for us to keep up our birth rate, because there has been a rapid decrease in the number of children born, all over the United Kingdom, during the past 10 years, and a high birth rate means that there are a large number of working men in the prime of life, living in the district. It would seem from a superficial view of the facts, that a high birth rate in a year would, of necessity, be succeeded by a high death rate, on account of the relative large proportion of infants who die, but this is not a necessary sequence, low death rates as a rule follow high birth rates, because infants soon become children and the mortality amongst them and amongst the adults of the *reproductive* age is very low. The number of deaths from injuries slightly affects our death rate, 19 deaths having been registered from this cause; this does not, however, fairly represent the actual rate for the district, because practically all the serious accidents in our Parish are taken to the Guest Hospital, or to the District Hospital, West Bromwich, and when fatal, tend to swell their death rates. The number of deaths is also slightly in excess of the past 10 years, 566 against an average of 559.7, this is more than accounted for by the higher infantile death rate.

I have been carefully considering the causes for our proportionately high infantile death rate, 173.9 per 1000 against 142 per 1000 for all England, and have come to the conclusion that no one factor can account for it. Hereditary disease, improper feeding, and filthy surroundings being the three prime factors. Most mothers nurse their own children in this district, very few work away from home. The more pure air that infants can get the less likely they are to die, and we must compare our infantile death rate with that of the towns where the rate is much higher than in the country.

TABLE OF CAUSES OF DEATH, CLASSIFIED AS
TO DISEASE & AGE.

			Under 5.	Over 6.	Total.
Small-pox	...	...	0	1	1
Measles	...	...	17	2	19
Scarlatina	...	...	6	1	7

Diphtheria	...	...	4	2	6
Croup	...	...	4	1	5
Whooping Cough	...	..	11	0	11
Typhoid Fever	...	...	3	8	11
Diarrhœa	...	...	39	3	42
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	0	1	1
Erysipelas	...	...	4	0	4
Phthisis	...	...	1	34	35
Bronchitis, Pleurisy & Pneumonia	...	...	62	37	99
Heart Disease	...	...	1	18	19
Injuries	...	...	7	12	19
All other Diseases	...	...	142	145	287
(not certified)					
		Total	301	265	566

Of the Deaths :—

527 were certified by a registered medical man

2 „ uncertified

37 „ certified by the Coroner after inquest or investigation

TABLE SHEWING MORTALITY FROM ALL
CAUSES AT SPECIFIED AGES.

Deaths under 1 year	196	} 301
„ 1 year and under 5	...	...	105
„ 5 „ 15	21	} 265
„ 15 „ 25	...	...	30
„ 25 „ 65	...	...	107
„ 65 and over	...	...	107

SCARLATINA.

Has been hanging about the parish nearly all the year, without at any one time becoming quite epidemic ; there have been 7 fatal cases, of which 6 were under 5 years of age. It is about 10 years since we had so many cases (1885). Upper Church Lane was the district most affected. In one case the disease was attributed to a fearful smell in the house, due to an improper connection being made with the Town sewer ; two children died within a few hours of each other, one registered as “ Erysipelas ” (22 months), the other as “ Scarlatina ” (5 months) ; certainly there seemed some connection in the method of poisoning for the symptoms were not unlike. The stench was terrible, and if the disease was not caused by the sewer gas, (as I do not think that according to our present knowledge it

could be), I think that the sewer gas so lowered the vitality of the children that they would be likely to catch and to have in a severe form from want of vitality, any disease of an infectious nature that was about the parish. We could not, however, trace any connection with another case, the parents kept a small shop, and it is just possible that some one may have called in from an infected house, and so carried the disease. The occurrence of these two cases emphasises the necessity there is for sewer connections to be made efficiently and under proper supervision, and that the sewers should be themselves well ventilated, so as to avoid all pressure of gas that would be likely to unseal traps or to force its way through the junction of pipes imperfectly laid, or house connections insecurely made.

Number of deaths registered in the past 10 years.

1885	...	14 deaths.	1890	...	1 deaths.
1886	...	4 „	1891	...	1 „
1887	...	0 „	1892	...	7 „
1888	...	5 „	1893	...	7 „
1889	...	2 „	1894	...	3 „
1895	...	...	...	...	7 deaths.
Average for 10 years 4.4 deaths.					

INFLUENZA

Visited us in the latter part of March, and continued through April and May, 5 deaths were registered; at first the type of the disease was severe, but the number of cases was fewer than in any of the preceding epidemics. The disease attacked those of all ages indiscriminately. Having had a previous attack seemed to be no protection against again having it, nor did those who had suffered previously seem to get off more lightly than others. Some of the worst cases were those who had previously been affected. Many people seem to have an attack each year that it has been epidemic. I know of no disease that, even with the greatest care in nursing, is followed by more varied and more troublesome sequelæ. Since Influenza appeared we had

1891	..	5 fatal cases	} This was practically the same epidemic, the disease just declining in Jan., 1894, no further epidemic during the year.
1892	..	7 „	
1893	..	31 „	
1894	..	3 „	
1895	..	5 „	

ENTERIC OR TYPHOID FEVER.

There have been 11 deaths during the year, the cases not being confined to one district alone but being scattered gener-

ally through the parish. In one court in Burnt Tree with 4 houses, there were five cases of Typhoid, the unsanitary condition of this court was sufficient of itself to favour the spread of any infectious disease; in September and October it seemed to favour the Dudley Port courts, all of which have previously given you trouble from the bad and insufficient drainage, and the generally dilapidated and dirty condition of the houses and outhouses. I have had made, practically, a house to house inspection of the whole district lying between the Old Port Inn and the Congregational Chapel, and a summary of this is in course of preparation to be referred to you. We are never entirely free from Typhoid fever, nor can we be as long as there are damp, dilapidated old properties, with sewage sodden surroundings, and unventilated closets with improperly constructed and leaky cesspits. These are, however, far less numerous than formerly, and in time I hope to minimise the necessary nuisance arising from our system of night-soil storage, by having all closets well ventilated, cess-pits well puddled and cemented, and covered with serviceable iron lids.

Number of deaths registered in the past 16 years:—

1885	...	10 deaths	1890	...	7 deaths
1886	...	9 „	1891	...	5 „
1887	...	12 „	1892	...	3 „
1888	...	9 „	1893	...	13 „
1889	...	9 „	1894	...	1 „
1895	...	...	...	...	11 deaths.

Average for 10 years 7.8 deaths.

MEASLES.

As I noted in my opening remarks, we have had a continuation of the epidemic of measles, which I reported upon last year as having been prevalent in the Ocker Hill district. After the Xmas holidays there seemed to be a cessation of the disease; at the close of January I reported that “Measles has practically died away as an epidemic,” at the close of February I reported “the district is free from any epidemic disease”; in March “one case of Measles is under observation,” but directly after this I found that Measles had broken out again in Gospel Oak, Princes End and Summerhill. I then got an order for closing St. John’s National Schools for a week after the Easter Holidays, but as the disease spread farther up the Bloomfield district, on May 10th, I advised the School Board and they closed the Bloomfield and Tipton Green Schools, I subsequently ascertained that there were over 200 cases in the Tipton Green district, (one medical man stating that he

had 51 cases under treatment), consequently, I got the Wesleyan Schools, the Tipton Hall Schools and the Wood St. Schools closed. We had however, some difficulty with the Sunday Schools, and although the managers and ministers had been notified of the epidemic, and asked to discontinue school for a short time, I found on the following Sunday that out of the six Sunday Schools in this district, three only were closed, the other three allowing their scholars to attend, and so to disseminate the disease. I kept myself in communication with the chairman of the Sanitary Committee and with your clerk, Mr. Waring, and on June 6th, the whole question was discussed at a special meeting of the Board, which I had previously asked to be called, so that I could fully report the progress of the epidemic, and the results of the steps that I had taken to abate it. On June 17th, the Schools were re-opened with the proviso that no child was to be accepted in School from an infected house, or any scholar who had suffered from it, without a note from a medical man. After this, the disease spread in a much more modified manner to Burnt Tree, Dudley Port and Horseley Heath, but there were not a sufficient number of cases to warrant me in taking any extraordinary steps, or to do more than report to you in the usual manner. Altogether there were 19 deaths, (17 under 5 years of age, and 2 over 5 years of age), against 20 cases last year, (18 under and 2 over 5 years of age), and an average of 14.9 for the past 10 years.

It may be noted that the majority of deaths were children under school age, this may be accounted for partially by the fact, that as Measles is seldom absent from us in sporadic cases, many of the older children were probably protected by a previous attack, and partially because of the greater mortality in infants and their more frequent complication with lung disorders.

Number of deaths registered in the past ten years:—

1885	..	8 deaths	1890	..	3 deaths
1886	..	7 „	1891	..	27 „
1887	..	18 „	1892	..	19 „
1888	..	8 „	1893	..	9 „
1889	..	34 „	1894	..	20 „
1895	..	..	..	..	19 deaths

Average for the past 10 years 14.9.

DIARRHOEA.

During the year there have been 42 deaths, a very large number; of these, 39 were young children under 5 years of age, 25 were infants 1 year and under. The disease was not

confined to any one district or to any particular time of the year. There were, however, 29 deaths during the months of September, October, and the first 3 weeks in November coincident with the outbreak of Typhoid fever already noted, and with a general rise of deaths from filth produced diseases throughout the whole country. I have so often tried to explain the existence of this disease in our district, that this year I would only call your attention to the great accession of deaths in the three autumn months, at a time when there was fermentation and decay freely going on, and very little air or wind stirring to take away the products, and to emphasise the necessity for plenty of ventilation with fresh air, to cool all houses and rooms, and to carry off noxious smells.

Number of deaths registered in the past 10 years,					
1885	...	26 deaths	1890	...	31 deaths
1886	...	13 „	1891	...	24 „
1887	...	13 „	1892	...	23 „
1888	...	19 „	1893	...	43 „
1889	...	13 „	1894	...	24 „
1895	...	...	...	...	42 deaths.
Average for the past 10 years 23.9.					

DIPHTHERIA AND CROUP.

There have been 6 deaths, 4 were children under 5 years of age, and 2 were over that age ; there have also been registered 5 cases of Croup, 4 under and 1 over 1 year of age. In 1893 no death from Diphtheria was registered, but 3 deaths from Membranous Croup. In 1894, 4 deaths from Membranous Croup and 2 from Diphtheria, these two diseases are so similar in their symptoms that often they are confounded together. The Catarrhal form of Croup frequently accompanies Measles, the Membranous or Diphtheritic accompanies Scarlatina. I note that from one house there were two deaths, one registered as Croup, the second from Diphtheria, and as Catarrhal Croup is not infectious and Diphtheritic is, the probability is that a mistake was made in registering the first case and that both were Diphtheritic.

This disease has only attacked houses separately, has not been in any way epidemic, and has never to my knowledge spread from the house affected.

PHTHISIS, (CONSUMPTION).

This terrible disease is not so frequent in this district as in many of the damper low lying districts, as a rule the cases here

are very chronic ; we stand high in this district and the air is very bracing. It cannot be too well known that Phthisis is infectious to those who come into close contact with infected persons. Consumptive patients should always sleep separately, and where possible in separate bedrooms ; they should never be allowed to spit about the place, because the consumptive germ will travel in the air from dried consumptive phlegm. All receptacles used for their phlegm should contain a little solution of prepared corrosive sublimate 1-1000 in the bottom. All handkerchiefs used should be put into an antiseptic solution and then be *well boiled*. Where possible separate things should be kept for the sole use of the consumptive patient.

1893	...	...	18	deaths
1894	...	...	25	„
1895	...	...	11	„

This year the number of deaths is somewhat below the average. Consumptive may not be distinctly a hereditary disease but there can be no doubt that descendants of consumptive ancestors are more prone to be attacked, and have generally a smaller amount of resistance to the disease when attacked, and consequently are less likely to recover than those from a perfectly healthy stock.

WHOOPING COUGH.

There have been 11 fatal cases. this disease never leaves the district and at some times breaks out with more virulence than at others. There is always a great difficulty in coping with it. Mothers do not seem to notice it much, unless some lung complication likely to prove fatal supervenes. I always rigidly keep away infected children from School, and in carrying out this restriction I would be glad if the Teachers in the district would let me know of any case that has come under their notice, if no medical man is in attendance. I will always give gratuitously a certificate exempting the infected children from attending school, so that an average attendance may be allowed, but unfortunately but few of such certificates are applied for.

Number of deaths registered in the past ten years.

1885	...	31	deaths	1890	...	4	deaths
1886	...	27	„	1891	...	21	„
1887	...	11	„	1892	...	24	„
1888	...	19	„	1893	...	10	„
1889	...	18	„	1894	...	8	„
1885	...	...	...	...	...	11	deaths.

Average for the past 10 years 17.4 deaths.

A. S. UNDERHILL, ESQ., M.D.

My dear Sir,

Below I have pleasure in forwarding you a few particulars of the work done in my department during the year ending, December 31st, 1895.

Plans of New buildings approved by Council	..	38
„ „ disapproved „	...	3
„ Alterations to present erections	...	4
„ „ Schools	...	2
„ New Schools approved	...	1
„ „ Works (addition of Factory)	...	1
Connections made to New Sewer	...	24

No new sewers have been constructed during the year, and the work of making connections up to the boundaries of the various properties, (application for a loan for such work being made in 1894), has been practically at a standstill owing to the Local Government Board refusing to grant us any further loan, for sewerage purposes, unless we provide a certain area of land for irrigation of the effluent after it leaves the filter beds. This (we have informed them) is almost an impossibility, and one of their Inspectors has been sent down here to see if any land is available, and has reported upon 3 sites, each of which are, in my opinion, impracticable for such purpose. I am under the impression that, with an improved filter, we shall be able to turn out an effluent which is well within the limits laid down by the Rivers Pollution Commission, and, with this object, there is now a Sub-committee appointed, and we shall be able very shortly, to recommend a scheme to the Council for an improved, or entirely new filtering medium. As regards the completion of the sewerage of the parish, I have made a report which has been sent on to the County Council, in which I cannot recommend my Council to embark on any costly scheme of sewerage in face of the difficulties which present themselves from mining operations, which are certainly very serious, considering the proposed scheme of Mines Drainage which is now on the "tapis," and seems almost certain to be carried out. This question will have to be approached in a very careful and deliberate manner by the Council, as it entails a considerable expenditure, which when completed may soon be destroyed, with the result that we may probably be worse off than we are at present. The question of dealing with the sewage in districts, is one that I am inclined to favour under all the circumstances, and the Sub-committee, herein before mentioned, are also giving this matter their attention. I really cannot understand the action of the L. G. B. in refusing us a loan for

purposes required, especially as it is so very important that the storm water should be kept out of the new sewers. I lose no opportunity of impressing this upon the Council, as the longer it is delayed the more costly will the cleansing out be, and the new sewers now being used to take the storm water will require cleansing from end to end, which will mean expense, but we have our hands practically tied by the action of the L. G. B.

During the last few months, the clerk and myself have been revising the Model Bye Laws to make them applicable in this district, and such revised copies will be in the hands of all the members in a short time, so that this question which has been so long before the Council, seems likely to be disposed of in a very short period.

I am,

Yours very truly,

WM. H. JUKES,

Surveyor.



INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

OFFICE OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To A. S. Underhill, Esq. M.D., D.P.H.

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting my report for the months of October, November, and December, 1895.

I commenced my duties as Sanitary Inspector on September 29th, 1895, I am, therefore, unable to give the result of the year's work. I have made since my appointment an inspection of all the Slaughter houses, Milk shops and Dairies in the district, and have found them fairly clean. During the past 3 months 1 Slaughter house has been registered.

During the past 3 months, night soil and ashes have been removed from various premises, representing 4869 houses. With the present staff the work is done in a satisfactory manner.

Sanitary Survey.

Since my appointment I have made an inspection of 132 houses in High Street, Simon's Passage and Bell Street. I am devoting some time to the work every week.

Various Nuisances reported upon for Abatement during the past 3 months.

	No. of Nuisances Reported.	No. of Nuisances Abated.
Houses requiring repairing and cleaning ...	23	16
Defective drains require repairing ...	9	5
Houses closed as unfit for habitation ...	2	2
Defective spouting to houses ...	4	2
Urinals to be connected to sewer and repaired		
Drains to be connected to new and old sewer	2	2
Impure Water, S. S. Water require putting on	4	3
Overcrowding	2	2
Houses requiring more privy accomodation ...	2	2
Privies and Ashpits requiring re-constructing	34	16
Notices served on owners of Property ...	65	
Houses purified after Zymotic diseases ...	2	
Number of cases entered in complaint book during the year		276
Number of Abatements		238
Complaints on the Books		37

There are now 37 cases on the books many of which are in course of abatement.

Yours faithfully,

CHAS. H. CLIFTON,

Sanitary Inspector.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector refers to the night-soil and ashes removal; that the work is done in a satisfactory manner. This refers to the manner in which the men have been working, and the condition in which the receptacles have been left, complaints having formerly been made that the removals were not complete, many of the receptacles being only half emptied; there are, however, many places now that require emptying, and before the winter is over he will have to apply for more help so as to have the district cleaner for the warmer weather. I would also wish to impress upon you the advisability of having a deep Sewer laid in Dudley Port, so as to relieve the drainage of the courts, where Typhoid Fever has been so prevalent. This I think could be done without any fear of mining disturbances, upon which the Surveyor has very properly laid such great stress. I quite coincide with his idea as to the impossibility of sewerage the Parish as a whole, and to the advisability of doing such work by sections, until we see the effect of drawing away from under the surface of the earth the large volumes of water, as is proposed by the Mines Drainage Commissioners.

I have much pleasure in thanking the Chairman and individual members of the Council for the kindness and courtesy shown me during the past year, and to thank my brother Officers for valuable help given me in my duties.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

A. S. UNDERHILL.



